

This is a disturbing trend that has resulted in lost jobs, reduced revenues for local communities, and fewer Americans enjoying our rich hunting heritage. State-run access programs are proof that opening additional acres of private land to hunting increases the numbers of hunters and provides a significant boost to the economies of small towns and rural areas.

I cannot emphasize enough what a tremendous opportunity Open Fields provides our colleagues to invest in America and to help preserve our hunting and fishing heritage. Currently, access programs are being successfully administered in states all across America, from Arizona with 2 million acres to Pennsylvania with 4.3 million acres. In 18 States, more than 23 million acres are enrolled. Administrative and incentive payments total just over \$23 million per year, an average of about \$1 per acre.

According to a recently completed cost-benefit analysis, states with active access programs encouraged more than 276,000 hunters to continue to hunt who otherwise would have quit. This translates into about \$512.6 million these hunters spend annually in these States. With this in mind, I remind our colleagues that the \$20 million per year investment called for under this legislation will potentially return many times its initial cost. States with access programs are currently spending about \$23 million per year while generating more than \$512 million in additional economic activity. Through our legislation, this return on investment can become a reality for many more states and communities.

Part of our responsibility as policymakers is to seek opportunities that will improve the quality of life of our constituents. We have introduced the Open Fields legislation as a means to encourage the States to partner with the outdoor recreation community and private landowners to preserve our hunting and fishing heritage and provide economic growth opportunities for rural America.

I urge my colleagues to support and cosponsor Open Fields.

PAUL PECK

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to praise an extraordinary man, Paul Peck. I had the honor of meeting Mr. Peck through our mutual interest in the Smithsonian Institution.

Mr. Peck has been an effective proponent of the civic process. In 2002, Mr. Peck generously donated \$2 million to enhance the National Portrait Gallery's presidential programs, allowing for educational resources related to the presidency. In the same year, the Portrait Gallery founded The Paul Peck Presidential Awards, the only awards in the United States to honor achievement in presidential service and portrayal. Last year, at the Third Annual

Paul Peck Presidential Awards Ceremony, Mr. Peck gave a heartfelt and thought-provoking speech about the need for an increased awareness of American history and an increased level of civil participation in our country. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Mr. Peck's remarks be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The Smithsonian is truly fortunate to have benefited from the dedication and intelligence of Mr. Peck.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SUMMARY OF PAUL PECK'S REMARKS, THIRD ANNUAL PAUL PECK PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS Hi folks.

It's great to be here with you to honor two great Americans: George Elsey and Brian Lamb.

I have been asked many times why I joined with the National Portrait Gallery to focus attention on the presidency.

My answer is: I believe that "Freedom is life and freedom is rooted in democracy."

I believe that Americans are blessed.

And we owe it to our children and grandchildren to pass on this love of freedom and the means to preserve it.

The founding fathers believed that freedom requires voters who are knowledgeable, involved, and vigilant.

Today, however, Fewer people vote, Fewer people seem concerned about civic issues, and Fewer people are involved in the civic, governing, and political process.

Furthermore, we've cut back on teaching Civics and according to the National Assessment of Educational Progress, fewer than 25 percent of Americans have even a basic knowledge of American History.

If we allow this trend to continue, what will it mean to be an American; and what happens to democracy because democracy can't survive as a spectator sport.

We can't continue this way. It's a roadmap to disaster and I worry about the direction we're taking.

I believe every citizen has an obligation to make things better and I believe every citizen can make a difference.

Here's how we're going to fix the problem.

The presidency symbolizes the United States and represents government to most people. Americans are fascinated with the presidency and we're going to build on this fixation to foster civic action, civic understanding, and reasoned voting.

Our civic action goal is to get everybody involved in democracy whether through public service, governing, politics, non-governmental organizations, or civic volunteer activities. America was built on people coming together to achieve great and honorable goals and we're going to re-create this sense of community, caring, and co-operation.

As many of you know, I believe that our children are our future. If they don't know what it means to be an American, how do we preserve freedom, democracy, and the American way of life?

In 1954, Brown vs. The Board of Education made America better; and voting and the right to vote grabbed children's attention and led to lifelong civic involvement. What are we doing today to spark a similar interest in freedom and democracy in our children?

As a first step in increasing civic action and understanding, I intend to request that next Tuesday's presidential election winner set aside one school day every year to discuss American principles and encourage civic engagement. It is my hope that govern-

ment, industry, and academia will encourage participation and provide time to their employees to get involved and help us come together as a nation.

Please help me make this proposal a reality.

In summary, you are our opinion makers. It's vital that you: Strengthen our society, Promote civility, and Inspire people to discuss issues and participate in the civic process;

Thereby promoting Lincoln's ideal of "government of the people, by the people, and for the people."

Thank you for coming.—Paul L. Peck, October 28, 2004

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

DOBSON STUDENTS RECEIVE HONORABLE MENTION

• Mr. KYL. Mr. President, earlier this month, a class of 25 students from Dobson High School in Mesa, AZ, competed against more than 1,250 students from across the United States in the national finals of the "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" program. I am proud to note the Dobson students, led by their teacher Joyce Godfrey, received a fourth place honorable mention in this year's competition.

I would like to take a moment to mention the names of those students who competed for Dobson High: Paul Bergelin, Andrew Brown, Lara Cardy, Zach Clark, Brian Hoblit, Katie Hughes, Byunghun Hyun, Valerie Keirn, Patrick Kwan, Alyssa Little, Alex Matyushov, Linh Nguyen, Danielle Rieger, Ralph Robles, Ashley Rogers, Darci Schimschat, Jessica Sims, Drew Snider, Jamie Stall, Tricia Strei, Wing-Yu Tang, Nehal Thakkar, Jana VanMarche, Ashley Wallace, and Jennifer Yan. I would also like to acknowledge their teacher, Joyce Godfrey, the district coordinator, Kathy Williams, and the State coordinator, Susan Nusall.

I wish these budding constitutional scholars the best of luck in the future.●

NORTHSHORE HARBOR CENTER

• Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the opening of the Northshore Harbor Center in Slidell, LA on May 20, 2005. This new convention center will greatly benefit St. Tammany Parish. I join the East St. Tammany Events Center Commission and all the people of St. Tammany Parish in voicing my excitement about the opening of the center and its potential for economic development.

The Northshore Harbor Center is the product of many years of hard work and intense planning. Though numerous individuals were involved in the project, I would like to take this moment to personally recognize those responsible for its completion. First, I would like to commend the dedicated citizens of the East St. Tammany Events Center Commission. Also, I